COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) the number of Telephone Exchanges set up in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of Exchanges
1997-98	3
1998-99	13
1999-2000	8

(b) the number of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during the next three years are given as under:—

Year	Number of Exchanges proposed to be set up
2001-2002	7
2002-2003	5
2003-2004	6
TOTAL	18

(c) Following effective measures are taken in this regard:—

(i) New telephone exchanges are proposed where sufficient registered demand exists.

(ii) State Government is approached for acquisition of land for exchange buildings.

(iii) Availability of stores and equipment is ensured.

Telephone on Demand in Andhra Pradesh

591. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about four lakh consumers are in the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this waiting list in the State is to be cleared; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to make telephone available to the consumers on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, sir. There are about 3.5 lakhs consumers in the waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.01.2001 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) It has been planned to clear the waiting list by September, 2001.

(d) As per New Telecom Policy 1999, it is planned to provide telephone on demand by the year 2002 with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of the department.

Telephone Facilities in the Villages of Bihar

†592. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the villages in Bihar where telephone facility is not yet available; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide telephone facility in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 24,772 villages in Bihar State are without telecom facility as on 31.1.2001. District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*see* below)

(b) All these remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March, 2002.

Statement

Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Villages without Telephone Facility as on 31/1/2001
1	Bhojpur	438
2	Buxer	522

†.Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.